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July 30, 1975

General Vernon Walters
Deputy Director,
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, DC 20505

Dear General Walters:

Under separate cover, we are sending you a tape recording of your remarks on the CIA, contained in the WASHINGTON REPORT of the air program. We thought you would like to have this for your files.

You are featured on the WASHINGTON REPORT Wednesday, August 6, 1975, broadcast over the Mutual Radio Network at 10:45 a.m. and 5:25 p.m. and heard locally over WAVA-FM, (105.1) 9:40 p.m. the same day.

Thank you again for your cooperation and interest.

Cordially,

Philip C. Clarke
Capital Editor
Washington Report of the Air

mmh

Separate Cover - Mail

REPORTER: Philip C. Clarke - with -
General Vernon Walters,
Deputy Director, CIA

AMERICAN SECURITY COUNCIL
1101 - 17th Street, NW
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FOR BROADCAST: Wednesday, August 6, 1975

THE CIA AND THE SOVIET THREAT

In their eagerness to tear down the CIA, headline-hungry critics have conveniently ignored the question of how the United States would fare without an effective intelligence service.

In attacking the occasional excesses or lapses of the Central Intelligence Agency, the critics also fail to note some vitally important information the Agency has turned up in recent months.

This information concerns the Soviet Union's massive military buildup -- a buildup that, in the words of CIA Deputy Director Vernon Walters, poses the greatest potential threat to the US since Valley Forge.

Addressing an American Security Council luncheon in Washington the other day, General Walters said:

GENERAL VERNON WALTERS: "We can't help seeing the Soviet Union deploying four new, different types of ICBM's -- signs of the fifth on the horizon. They're third generation missiles; they're not anything they've just cooked up. We see them building larger and more powerful submarines; we see them increasing the number of tanks; we see -- in all areas -- a tremendous military effort being made to modernize and improve the Soviet forces beyond -- what seems to me -- to be necessary for either deterrence or defense. The inevitable question which faces the United States government is: What use will they make of these capabilities? And that is the question for which the United States government must look to the intelligence community -- to the CIA -- for answers."

General Walters says the Soviet military buildup is accompanied by an unprecedented attack on the CIA and on its information-gathering resources:

GENERAL WALTERS: "There is a great effort abroad to make you believe that intelligence is immoral, un-American, unworthy and everything else. And that everybody should know all the secrets that are running around. President Truman, in 1956, he was asked about this. He said it matters not to the United States whether its secrets become known through publication in the media or through the activities of spies. The damage to the United States is the same in both cases. And he added, 'I, for one, do not believe that the best interest of our country is so served by going on the principle that everybody has the right to know everything.' And that extends for also long period of American history."

General Walters says investigations of the CIA may be useful, but they should be responsible:

GENERAL WALTERS: "Right now we're engaged in a number of inquiries to determine whether any great nation can operate its secret intelligence service, so to speak, in a goldfish bowl. Now we may succeed because we're a very unusual people. But if we do, it'll be just like going to the moon -- we'll have been the only ones who ever succeeded in doing it. Now, I think these investigations can be healthy, they can be helpful to us in the future, providing they're conducted in a positive, constructive and responsible sense, and are not operated in some sort of a political football. Because the security of the United States is far too precious to be kicked around